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Linda McCulloch
Superintendent

To: Interested Persons

Re: Follow Up Request on "Coordinated School Health: Implications for Teacher Preparation Standards and for School Accreditation Standards"

Background

This paper represents the follow up to the initial request for review and comment on proposed recommendations for changes to teacher preparation standards for elementary teachers and to the school accreditation standards regarding time requirements for elementary health enhancement instruction. In essence, the proposed changes were intended to clarify that:

- to make health enhancement instruction most effective and most useful to students, it needs to be delivered by teachers who are knowledgeable and competent in the content matter, and that
- health enhancement instruction – the health-related *and* the physical activity-related components – needs sufficient time at all grade levels to ensure that a program meeting the requirements of the standards is delivered to students.

Based on comments received from school administrators and others interested in the impact of the proposed changes, a "recommended best practice" approach is being proposed instead of an "administrative rule requirement" approach. While this approach places emphasis on the health issues facing young people and the value of improving school-based health education and physical activity to help address those issues, it does not require teacher preparation colleges/universities or public schools to do anything differently than is currently required. Rather, this approach establishes a foundation of best practice to which schools should work toward.

Review and Comment

Please review the following rationale and wording changes. Provide your comments in writing to: Office of Public Instruction, Attn: Rick Chiotti, PO Box 202501, Helena MT 59620-2501 or by e-mail to rchiotti@state.mt.us. Please provide your comments by October 21, 2002.

Within the Montana School Accreditation Standards, administrative rule 10.55.1003 Program Foundation Standards identifies the common practices that can help ensure educational opportunity for all students to demonstrate learning consistent with the content and performance standards. This rule states that, in addition to following the content and performance standards, all programs "shall work to" (which is read as a recommended condition or practice rather than a required element) meet certain conditions, include certain practices or provide

certain resources. Since rule 10.55.1003 provides recommendations for program foundation, it is suggested that the rule be amended as follows:

- add wording to ARM 10.55.1003 (c)(ii) so that it reads "qualified staff necessary to support the instructional process, *including elementary teachers (00 endorsement) with at least 10 semester credits in assigned subject areas when teaching departmentalized grades 5-8;*" (Italics indicates the wording to be added)
- insert new wording in ARM 10.55.1003 (a)(ii) and renumber existing items ii-vi as iii-vii, with the new wording being "*provide effective health enhancement instruction to all grades and provide such instruction on a daily basis as part of the basic elementary education program.*" (Italics indicates the wording to be added)

Reader Comments: _____
